



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEE SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGE

TUCSON, ARIZONA –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that Ricardo Romero, Jr., (DOB 9/5/78), of Rio Rico, Arizona was sentenced by United States District Court Judge David Bury to fifteen (15) months in prison.

Romero had transported approximately one hundred and fifty pounds of marijuana from one location in Rio Rico to another location in Rio Rico for persons he believed were narcotic traffickers. He was paid \$3,000.00 for transporting the marijuana.

Romero had been a fire fighter for the United States Forest Service, Nogales Fire Station, since 1998.

The investigation that led to the arrest was conducted by a joint investigation between the Southern Arizona Corruption Task Force, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture - Office of the Inspector General. The Southern Corruption Task Force is comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Internal Affairs, and the Tucson Police Department.

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The prosecution is being handled by James T. Lacey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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